
Introduced by Senator Cogdill

April 10, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103—Relative to the Senator Charles S. Poochigian Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 103, as introduced, Cogdill. Senator Charles S. Poochigian Highway.

This measure would designate a prescribed section of State Highway Route 180 as the “Senator Charles S. Poochigian Highway.” The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs so designating that section of State Highway Route 180 and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Charles S. “Chuck” Poochigian is a third generation
2 resident of central California who was born and raised on a family
3 farm in the Lone Star area of eastern Fresno County, between
4 Fresno and Sanger, near the Highway 180 corridor; and
5 WHEREAS, Chuck and his wife, Debbie, were married in 1977
6 and have three grown children, a daughter-in-law, and a grandson;
7 and
8 WHEREAS, Chuck Poochigian received his bachelors degree
9 in Business Administration from California State University,
10 Fresno, in 1972, and his law degree from the Santa Clara University
11 School of Law in 1975, he served for six years as a member of the
12 California Air National Guard, and he practiced general civil and
13 business law from 1975 until November, 1988; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1988, Poochigian was chosen by Governor
2 George Deukmejian to serve on his senior staff, and assisted the
3 Governor in the selection of key administration officials and
4 members of over 375 state boards and commissions, as well as
5 certain judicial appointments; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1991, Governor Pete Wilson named Poochigian
7 as his Appointments Secretary, with the primary focus on assisting
8 the Governor in his selection of judges for California's trial and
9 appellate courts; and

10 WHEREAS, Poochigian was elected to the California State
11 Assembly in 1994, and to the California State Senate in 1998, and
12 over the course of his legislative career he represented eastern
13 parts of central California from Bakersfield to Lodi; and

14 WHEREAS, As a legislator, Poochigian focused his energy on
15 major public policy issues while being attentive to the particular
16 needs of his constituents in the rich agricultural region of central
17 California, and held key positions including serving as the Chair
18 of the Appropriations Committee, as the Assistant Republican
19 Leader in the Assembly, as the Republican Caucus Chair and the
20 Assistant Republican Leader in the Senate, and as a legislative
21 appointee to the Little Hoover Commission appointed by both
22 Democratic and Republican leaders; and

23 WHEREAS, Poochigian received numerous awards and
24 recognition for outstanding public service, including an
25 Outstanding Senator Award, numerous Legislator of the Year
26 Awards, a Technology Leader Award, a Distinguished Legislator
27 Award, a Distinguished Service Award, two President's
28 Recognition Awards, a Distinguished Alumnus Award, and a 2007
29 Distinguished Service Award with his wife Debbie; and

30 WHEREAS, Poochigian was a highly respected leader in
31 Sacramento and a staunch advocate for sound fiscal planning,
32 living within our means, and ensuring that the people of central
33 California received a fair share of infrastructure funding, including
34 the distribution of moneys for transportation and school
35 construction; and

36 WHEREAS, Poochigian authored numerous bills that involved
37 comprehensive reform and required bipartisan consensus, including
38 laws dealing with the expansion of higher education opportunities,
39 special education funding, workers' compensation system reform,
40 and public safety; and

1 WHEREAS, Poochigian worked tirelessly to support the rights
2 of crime victims and their families, led the fight against identity
3 theft, worked to protect children from dangerous sexual predators,
4 authored bills to incarcerate felons with firearms, and was an
5 advocate for tough penalties for repeat offenders; and

6 WHEREAS, Poochigian's reputation for strong leadership and
7 hard work was recognized by the California Journal magazine,
8 which ranked him Assembly Republican "Rookie of the Year" for
9 1996, and he was also ranked among the top five legislators in the
10 80-member State Assembly in the following separate categories:
11 effectiveness, integrity, intelligence, problem solving, potential,
12 and overall; and

13 WHEREAS, In ratings released in March of 1998, Poochigian
14 was recognized as one of the top five Assembly Members in the
15 categories of integrity and hard work, in the June 1999 California
16 Journal he was described as "A voice of reason highly respected
17 for his problem-solving skills," and in August of 2004, the
18 California Journal selected him as the Senate recipient of its
19 "Minnie Award" for integrity; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Poochigian now practices law with the
21 Fresno-based firm of Dowling, Aaron and Keeler; now therefore
22 be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
25 section of State Highway Route 180 between Clovis Avenue and
26 General Grant Grove Park, in the County of Fresno, as the Senator
27 Charles S. Poochigian Highway; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
29 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
30 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this
31 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
32 sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it
33 further

34 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
35 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
36 author for appropriate distribution.